



## Open Wide

### Module 4: What to Do & How to Do It

#### Overview

Module 4 provides steps for promoting oral health in community settings. The module discusses how health professionals can help prevent or reduce the risk for tooth decay and provides information about oral health risk assessments and screenings. This module also explains how health professionals can record oral health information and help parents find a dentist. In addition, the module discusses the meaning and purpose of anticipatory guidance.

#### Training Credits & Evaluation

- ◆ After completing the curriculum, participants are eligible for 2 continuing education units through the Montana Early Childhood Project.
- ◆ After completing the curriculum, please fill out the evaluation form to help improve the course.

To register for **Open Wide** training, please visit our website:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/family-health/oral-health/family-oralHealth-index.shtml>

or send your request via email to:  
[HHSOralHealth@mt.gov](mailto:HHSOralHealth@mt.gov)

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## Open Wide

### Oral Health Training for Health Professionals



### Family & Community Health Bureau Oral Health Program

**Phone: 406-444-0276**

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## What is Open Wide?

Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals is a series of four modules designed to help health and early childhood professionals working in community settings (for example, Head Start and WIC staff) promote oral health in the course of promoting general health for infants, children, and their families.

The modules present professionals with information about tooth decay, risk factors, and prevention; explain how to perform an oral health risk assessment and oral health screening; and highlight anticipatory guidance to share with parents.

## Module 1: Tooth Decay

### Overview

Module 1 focuses on the biological causes of tooth decay and its physical and psychological effects. The module provides an overview of tooth decay and of *Streptococcus mutans* (*S. mutans*) role in the decay process. The module also explains how a parent or other caregiver can “infect” an infant or child with *S. mutans* and what foods interact with *S. mutans*. In addition, the module discusses problems that tooth decay may cause.

## Module 2: Risk Factors for Tooth Decay

### Overview

Module 2 explores the risk factors associated with tooth decay: in infancy and early childhood. The module provides information about risks associated with being from certain population groups or with having certain conditions. The module also discusses other risk factors associated with tooth decay, how parents’ behavior can affect an infant’s or child’s risk for tooth decay, and the relationship between tooth decay and the frequency with which infants and children eat or drink. In addition, the module discusses the relationship between breastfeeding and risk for tooth decay.

## Module 3: Prevention of Tooth Decay

### Overview

Module 3 discusses health behaviors and prevention measures to reduce the risk, severity, and impact of tooth decay in infancy and early childhood. The module provides information about when an infant or child should first visit the dentist, appropriate oral hygiene practices for infants and children, and feeding and eating practices that can reduce the risk for tooth decay. The module also discusses fluoride and fluorosis. In addition, the module offers an overview of other preventive measures available to prevent tooth decay.

